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1844

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

MISSISSIPPI

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Maintaining, invariably, the important doctrines of three equal persons in the Godhead; eternal and personal election; Original Sin; particular redemption; Free Justification by the righteousness of Christ imputed; the absolute necessity of the spirit's operation; efficacious grace in regeneration; the obligation of believers to attend to all the precepts of Scripture; the final perseverance of real believers; the resurrection of the dead; the general judgment of the last day; the eternal happiness of the righteous, and the everlasting misery of such as die impenitent; the baptism of believers by immersion, and the independence of their respective churches.

HELD WITH THE

GALILEE CHURCH—AMITE COUNTY, MISS.,

October 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1844.

CLINTON:
PRINTED BY CARMAN & GREEN.
1844.

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MINUTES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 1844.

The representatives of the several churches, composing the Mississippi Baptist Association, met pursuant to adjournment, and in consequence of the failure of Elder E. Courtney, the Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder S. Coker, from Ephesians, 3d chapter and 8th verse.

1. After a short recess, the Association was called to order by Elder Z. Reaves, who led in prayer.

2. Called for and read, letters from sixteen churches, and minuted their states and enrolled the names of the delegates. The Association was organized by electing Brother S. Coker, Moderator, and G. P. Claughton, Clerk.

3. Ministering brethren, present, were invited to seats with us.

4. Petitionary letters were received from the Bethany, Mount Zion and Bogue Chitto Churches, which were admitted, and their delegates received the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator.

5. Letters of correspondence were received from sister Associations, viz: Brethren J. Crawford and C. MaGhee appeared as Messengers from the Pearl River, with a letter and packet of minutes: Bro. T. M, Bond from the Eastern Louisiana, with a letter and packet of minutes, and Bro. N. B. Grandberry from the Union Association,—these messengers were received and invited to seats.

6. A letter of correspondence was received from the Mississippi River Association by the hand of her delegate, Elder W B Wall; whereupon the faith of said Association was read, and there being some objections raised, the correspondence wes laid on the table until Monday morning.

7. T. Causey, J. Cain and J. Sojourner, were appointed a Committee to arrange preaching during the meeting.

8. Appointed a committee of arrangement, viz: M T Conn, Z Reaves, T R Cheatham, the Moderator and Clerk.

9. Appointed brethren to write letters of correspondence to sister Associations, viz: M T Conn to the Union; W Clark to Pearl River, and S M Brian to the Eastern Louisiana.

10. Appointed messengers of correspondence to other Associations, viz: M T Conn and S Coker to the Union; Z Reaves and J Young to the Pearl River, and W Clark to the Eastern Louisiana.

11. The Committee on preaching reported as follows: Elders Grandberry, Crawford, Bond and Young, preach on Lord's day in the order of their names, the pulpit having been filled to day, (since the introductory,) by M T Conn and C MaGhee.

12. Adjourned to 9 o'clock Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6.

On Lord's day preaching commenced early by the above named brethren. The word was preached with great power and demonstration of the truth, to a large and respectable audience. Many were moved to tears, and at the close of preaching some came forward and requested the prayers of the brethren, and we hope that much good will be the result.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opening prayer by the Moderator.

13. Committee on preaching made their report, that Brethren J Young, J Morris and C MaGhee preach to-day.

14. The subject of correspondence with the Mississippi River Association was taken up, and after a free and full discussion on the orthodoxy of their faith, the motion to correspond was withdrawn by their messenger.

15. The committee of arrangement made their report, which was received.

16. Appointed a financial committee, viz: S M Brian, J Sojourner and J Cain.

17. The resignation of Bro David Lee, Treasurer of this Association, was received, and on motion, Bro T R Cheatham was chosen to fill said office.

18. The committee appointed by this body at her last session to revise the fourth article of her faith, reported, which report was received and ordered to be printed with these minutes.

19. *Resolved*, That the articles of faith, rules of decorum, and powers of the Association, be printed with these minutes.

20. Read and received corresponding letters to the Pearl River, Union and Eastern Louisiana Associations.

21. Query, from the Zion Hill church—is it agreeable to gospel order, where a church member is excluded, by request, for the happiness and prosperity of the church, when such member applies for restoration, and there are some objectors, whose objections are not agreeable to gospel order, for the church to take no farther action in the case, and leave the applicant to reconcile the difficulty with the objectors.

22. Answer to the query above—It is not gospel order.

23. The Zion Hill church presented a grievance against the Liberty church, which was taken up, and a committee appointed to labor with the Liberty church, and report at the next meeting of this body, and that T R Cheatham, T Caney, Z Reaves, J Sojourner and S M Brian be said committee, and that the Clerk be instructed to furnish the Liberty church with a copy of the charges preferred against her by the Zion Hill church.

24. The Liberty church petitioned for a letter of dismission, which was rejected on account of existing difficulties with the Zion Hill church.

25. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to

Bro David Lee for the fidelity with which he has discharged the duties as Treasurer of this Association.

26. *Resolved*, That the Treasurer send ten dollars by Bro W B Wall to the widow of Bro H Wall, deceased, for his services as messenger to the Eastern Louisiana Association.

27. *Resolved*, That Elder E. Courtney preach the Introductory Sermon at the next meeting of this body, and that Elder J Young be his alternate.

28. *Resolved*, That Elder Z. Reaves, write a Circular Letter for next year.

29. *Resolved*, That Bro S M Brian superintend the printing of eight hundred copies of minutes, and that he call on the Treasurer for money ta pay the expenses of the same.

30. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be returned to the church and neighborhood, for their hospitality and kindness towards us while with them.

31. *Resolved*, That the next meeting of this body be held with the Mount Pleasant church in Pike county, Miss., commencing on Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, 1845.

32. *Resolved*, That S M Brian be allowed fifteen dollars for his services in attending to the printing of these minutes.

33. Minutes read and approved.

Adjourned to the time and place above named.

Concluding prayer by Bro Grandberry.

W S. COKER, *Moderator*.

G. P. CLAUGHTON, *Clerk*.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

In the hands of the Treasurer,		$00 62
Contribution from the Churches,		75 15
By public collection,		14 25
By a friend,		1 62
		$91 64
Paid W B Wall,	$10 00	
Paid for Printing Minutes,	40 00	
Superintending do	15 00	
	$65 00	- - - - 65 00
		$26 64

NAMES OF MINISTERS IN THIS ASSOCIATION.

EZRA COURTNEY, JESSE GOUNG, SHADRACH COKER, H. D. F. ROBERTS, JAMES BAILEY, WILSON CLARK, ZACHARIAH REAVES, ROLAND WILKINSON, M. T. CONN, AND P. MULLIN.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dis. by Letter.	Deceased.	Present Number	Ministers.	POST OFFICE.	Contributions.
New Providence.	T R Cheatham, R Wilkinson.	1		2		1		60	1	Liberty.	8 00
Ebenezer.	Wm L Johns, R Johns.	1	1		1	3	2	55		Rose Hill.	5 70
East Fork.	Charles Felder, J H Quinn.		3		4		1	69		Liberty.	5 00
Zion Hill.	W Seal,										
Shiloh, *no del.*	J Cain.	3	2		1	1	1	42		Liberty.	4 00
Gallilee.	G P Claughton, Thos. Causy.					1		37		Centerville	6 00
Hopewell.	H R Webb, J Ford.	3	5			1	1	26		Meadville.	4 00
Mars Hill.	Wm Marseilles, T W Wilson.		1	4				34		Liberty.	2 40
Salem.	P Bond, E Roberts.	3		2	1	2	1	53		Holmesv'e.	4 00
Friendship, (Pike County.)	S Cohen, T Wallace.	3	6		1	1		41		Holmesv'e.	5 63
Ramah.	W Clark, Wm Pate.		1	1		7		22	1	Liberty.	1 50
Jackson.	S M Brian.	9	2		1	1		67	1	Jackson*La*	2 50
Mt. Pleasant.	Z Reaves, J Price.		3	1	2	1	1	46	1	Holmesv'e.	6 35
Liberty.	H D F Roberts, H McKnight.									Liberty.	
Mt. Zion.	A Cloy, J R Cotton.	8	6	3		1	1	34		Meadville.	4 57
Friendship.	W Smith, J W Oliver.	4	1			4		25		Brookland.	4 00
Spring Hill.	J Sojourner, H Cole.		3				1	15	1	Meadville.	4 50
Bethany.	M T Conn, S Foster.							13	1		3 00
Mt. Zion.	Wm Martin, James A Reed.		1			2		29			4 00
Bogue Chito.	Alford Reaves.										
Total,		35	15	13	11	24	11	668	6		75 15

ARTICLES OF FAITH, RULES, &c., OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

PREAMBLE.

We, the Churches of Jesus Christ, who have been regularly baptised upon a profession of our faith, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches, and of maintaining a correspondence, for the preserving a federal union amongst all the churches of the same faith and order,—We, therefore, do agree to unite and form ourselves into an Association, upon the following principles, namely;

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God; and that there

Ministers.	POST OFFICE.	Contributions.
1	Liberty.	8 00
	Rose Hill.	5 70
	Liberty.	5 00
	Liberty.	4 00
	Centerville	6 00
	Meadville.	4 00
	Liberty.	2 40
	Holmesv'e.	4 00
	Holmesv'e.	5 63
1	Liberty.	1 50
1	Jackson*La*	2 50
1	Holmesv'e.	6 35
	Liberty.	
	Meadville.	4 57
	Brookland.	4 00
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are a trinity of persons in the God Head, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; the same in essence—equal in power and glory.

2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God; are of divine authority, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam; in the imputation of his sin to all posterity; in the total depravity of human nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to his people; in the eternal unconditional election of a definite number of the human family to grace and glory.

5. We believe that sinners are only justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is unto all, and upon all them that believe.

6. We believe all those who were chosen in Christ, before the foundation of the world, are in time effectually called, regenerated, converted and sanctified, and are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.

7. We believe there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who, by the satisfaction which he made to law and justice "in becoming an offering for sin," hath, by his most precious blood, redeemed the elect from under the curse of the law, that they might be holy and without blame before him in love.

8. We believe good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification: are evidences of a gracious state; and that it is the duty of all believers to perform them from a principle of love.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

ON GOSPEL ORDER.

1. We believe that the visible church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of faithful persons, who have given themselves up to the Lord and to one another, and have covenanted to keep up a Godly discipline, agreeably to the rules of the gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, the only law-giver; that the government is with the body "the church," and is equally the right and the privilege of each member thereof.

3. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the church until his second coming.

4. We believe that baptism, by immersion, is the only scriptural mode, and that believers are the only proper subjects.

5. We believe that none but regular baptised church members have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

6. We believe it to be the duty and privilege of all believers, to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to baptism by immersion, and to give themselves members of the visible church.

7. We believe it to be the duty of every regularly organized church, to expel from her communion all disorderly members, who are immoral in their lives, or that hold doctrines contrary to the scriptures.

RULES OF DECORUM

ADOPTED BY THE

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. Those delegates who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union, shall compose the Association.

2. The delegates so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with their number in fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead, since the last Association.

3. The delegates thus chosen and convened, shall be denominated the Mississippi Baptist Association.

4. This Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present.

5. If new churches desire to be admitted into the union, they shall petition by letter and delegates. If, on examination, found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Modertor, giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship.

6. No church in the union shall have a right to more than two delegates, until she shall exceed one hundred members,—then she shall have a right to an additional delegate for every fifty.

7. Every query sent to the Association by any church in the union, shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated, and if there shall be a majority for it, shall be taken up and investigated: Provided, always, that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall be taken up by the Association, except it be withdrawn by the person who made it.

9. Only one person shall speak at once, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator.

10. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted except he depart from the subject, break the rules of decorum, or cast reflections on a brother, in which case he shall be immediately called to order by the Moderator.

11. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.

12. No brother shall be suffered to whisper or laugh during the conference, neither shall he absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

13. The Moderator shall have the liberty of speaking on any question that may be debated, provided the chair be previously filled, and to have the privilege of voting only when the Association are equally divided.

14. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the Association may deem expedient.

15. We think it absolutely necessary to have an Association Fund for defraying the expenses of the same—for the raising and supporting of which, we think it the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums as they may deem proper, and send by the hands of their delegates to the Association; and the money thus contributed by the churches, shall be deposited in the hands of a Treausurer, by the Association appoinied, who shall be ac-

countable to the Association for all monies by him received, and paid out according to the direction of the same.

16. The minutes of the Association shall be read, (and corrected if necessary,) and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the Association rises.

17. These rules of decorum, and gospel order, may be altered, changed or amended, from time to time, or any part of them, when a majority of all the churches in the Association shall deem it necessary: but the articles of faith shall not be subject to any alteration, only as respects form.

THE POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. It shall be the business of this Assoc iation to provide for the general union of the churches.

2. To keep up a friendly correspondence, when convenient, with those Associations of the same faith and order.

3. This Association shall have no power to Lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.

4. It shall be the duty of this Association to give the churches the best advice in their power, in difficult matters.—To enquire into any difficulties which may exist between sister churches, and remove them if possible.

5. To admit any of the brethren in the ministry as assisstants, but not to give them the privilege of voting.

6. This Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in the union, who may be unsound in principle, or immoral in practice, until reclaimed.

7. To appoint any person or persons, by and with their consent, to transact any business, which the Association may deem necessary.

8. The Association shall have power to adjourn to any time or place they may think most proper.

9. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

The committee to whom was referred the revision of the 4th Article of Faith, as adopted by the Mississippi Association at her organization, Report:

Your committee have given all the attention to the subject that they are capable of, and have invited the assistance of other brethren to a full and free discussion of the whole matter.

Therefore, your committee have come to the conclusion, that the Fourth Article of Faith, as expressed in your abstract, contains the doctrine of God, as taught by Christ and his Apostles, and held by the church of Christ in every age, so far as substance is concerned, and the mode of expression is such as has been adopted by many of our brethren for centuries past, both in Europe and America. Your body was organized upon this Article; she has lived in much peace and harmony; she has enjoyed much prosperity: God, our Saviour, has greatly enlarged our borders, and notwithstanding there has been recently many aspersions cast upon the form of words, yet your committee are of opinion, that the real objection is against the important facts contained in the language used, i. e., in the idea of the word Eternal, in connection with that of

Election of God, an idea, which your committee would be unwilling to see expunged, for, if God be eternal and unchangeable, then his choice must be eternal and unchangeable, or it is clear that he does things now that he did not from eternity purpose to do, and consequently, is changeable. The word Unconditional, in connection with Election, contains the idea, that God does not make choice of one rather than another, because of any amiable qualities in the former, rather than the latter, but of his own sovereign will; as to the number of God's choice being definite, this idea is so palpable, that no individual who will for one moment consider the character of God, but must see, that the number of the members of Christ's mystical body, must either be definite or indefinite: if the latter, then how could the Saviour, who is the wisdom of God, know what number of seats to prepare in the mansions of glory, to be filled by his saints; but if he knows precisely how many the Father hath given him, the difficulty is removed.

In view of the above facts and considerations, your committee would respectfully offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Fourth Article be retained, without alteration, and that the following quotations, from the Scriptures, be annexed, in support of the doctrine contained in said article.

ELECTION.

Jeremiah, 31st chap. 3d v.—"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."

ELECTION UNCONDITIONAL ON THE PART OF MAN.

Ephe. 1st ch. and 4th v.—"According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before him in love."

Thess. 1st ch. and 4th v.—"Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God."

First Peter, 1st ch. and 2d v.—"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ; Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

DEFINITE NUMBER.

Second Timothy, 2d ch. and 19th v.—"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

John, 10th ch. and 3d v.—"To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name and leadeth them out."

John, 6th ch. and 37th v.—"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

John, 17 ch. and 2d v.—"As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."

Dear brethren, we have referred to a few texts of scripture, which we believe supports the doctrine contained in the Fourth Article, upon which, with many others of a kindred kind, our faith rests; all of which we respectfully submit.

EZRA COURTNEY, Chairman.

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EY, Chairman.